



Commercial Black Sea Bass Fishery Possession Limit Increase

NOTICE

Effective 0001 hours, Sunday, December 18, 2022, the following possession limits will be in effect for Connecticut's commercial black sea bass fishery:

- For landings from trawl net: 8,000 pounds per weekly period, Black Sea Bass License Endorsement required. Call-in / Call-out is required under weekly landing limits: prior to departure and again prior to offloading call EnCon Police at 860.424.3503 (24/7) and provide vessel name, Captain's name, departure date, return date, port of landing and prior to offloading the hail weight of summer flounder and black sea bass onboard.
- For landings from lobster pots, when in possession of lobsters: 60 pounds. No Black Sea Bass License Endorsement required. This does not apply to personal use lobster license holders. Note: Black Sea Bass endorsement holders may not be in possession of 60 pounds of black sea bass taken from lobster pots in addition to the prevailing possession limit for endorsement holders.

Call-in required for black sea bass landings from lobster pots: To provide for timely monitoring of black sea bass landings from lobster pots, the Marine Fisheries Program is implementing a mandatory weekly call-in reporting requirement for black sea bass landings from lobster pots. Effective May 1, 2022, any commercial fisherman landing black sea bass from lobster pots is required to contact the Marine Fisheries Program weekly (deadline of 2359 hours on Monday, beginning Monday, May 9, 2022) by calling 860-447-4323 and leaving a message with the following information: the fisherman's name, commercial fishing plate number, the reporting week ending date (reporting weeks run Sunday through Saturday) and total pounds of black sea bass landed from lobster pots during the reporting week.

- Only holders of a Connecticut Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License, a Connecticut Principal Commercial Fishing License, or a Connecticut Restricted Lobster Pot Fishing License may legally fish lobster pots commercially in Connecticut state waters and therefore land black sea bass from lobster pots. As a reminder, lobster pots must be tagged with the current fishing year trap tags.

All of the possession limits listed above apply to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time. Transfer of these species between vessels at sea is prohibited. In any instance where there is a violation of the possession limit on board a vessel carrying more than one person when the catch is commingled, the violation shall be deemed to have been committed by the owner of the vessel, or the operator of the vessel, if the owner is not on board. When any person on a vessel is commercial fishing, the commercial possession limit applies to the entire vessel and no person on that vessel may also possess fish under a recreational creel limit.

For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status:

Call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits or see: www.ct.gov/deep/TL.

The Department monitors landings and adjusts trip limits according to Department regulations in an attempt to provide fishing opportunity throughout the year for all participants in the commercial fishery. In addition, the Department strives to provide advance notification of trip limit changes, although this may not always be possible due to rapidly escalating or unanticipated landings. In such circumstances, only a short notification period may be possible.

The information provided in this notice is a summary of possession limits and other general rules only. For complete information on commercial fishing regulations please see: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/commercial/marinecircpdf.pdf>, or contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at PO Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or by calling 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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